

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CAB-09 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

FRB-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01

SSO-00 RSR-01 INRE-00 /086 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4506

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1575

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, EFIN, UY, US

SUBJ: SHIPMENT OF URUGUAYAN GOLD FROM U. S.

REF: MVD 1548

1) WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY OFFICIALS OF GOU STATE AIRLINE, PLUNA, THAT CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD (CAB) HAS RAISED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REGARDING PERMISSION FOR PLUNA AIRCRAFT TO TRAVEL TO U. S. FOR REPATRIATION OF URUGUAYAN GOLD HOLDINGS (REFTEL).

2) PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR PLUNA AIRCRAFT TO TRAVEL TO U. S. ON MAY 26, 1973. GOLD TO BE REPATRIATED IS PRESENTLY BEING HELD BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK AND WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO PLUNA FOR SHIPMENT TO URUGUAY. GOLD IS OWNED BY GOU, AND WILL BE RETURNED ON GOU- OWNED AIRCRAFT. IN ANSWER TO ONE OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY CAB, THERE IS OF COURSE NO REVENUE INVOLVED IN RETURN FLIGHT NOR IS THERE ANY CHARTERER OR CHARTER PRICE FOR THE TRIP FROM NEW YORK TO MONTEVIDEO. COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THAT ON TRIP FROM MONTEVIDEO TO NEW YORK, PLUNA WILL CARRY NINE TONS OF SHOES. CHARTERER FOR THIS SHIPMENT IS INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS, S. A., AN ARGENTINE FIRM. CHARTER PRICE FOR SHOES IS UD\$4,950.

3) CURRENT PROBLEM IS THAT ALTHOUGH GOU THROUGH PLUNA IS ABLE TO PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION TO CAB RELATIVE TO CHARTERERS AND CHARTER PRICES, GOU DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO
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INDICATE PUBLICLY THAT RETURN SHIPMENT FROM NEW YORK WILL BE GOLD.

4) ACTION REQUEST: REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT CONTACT MR. HAROLD S. PARROTT, CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD, 1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C. AND EXPLAIN CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF GOLD SHIPMENT. PLUNAOFFICIALS STATE THEY ARE TELEGRAPHING OTHER INFORMATION NEEDED BY CAB. AS TIME FOR FLIGHT IS QUITE NEAR, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF CAB IS ABLE TO PROCEED WITH CLEARANCE ON BASIS OF DATA TO BE PROVIDED BY PLUNA AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION ABOVE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MONTEV01575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730552/aaaajpyu.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MVD 1548
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980227
Subject: SHIPMENT OF URUGUAYAN GOLD FROM U. S.
TAGS: EFIN, OTRA, US, UY
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005